The value of the proposals cleared by the State High Powered Comittees and due to be processed for release exceeds Rs. 1000 crore. For many of the balance districts, proposals from the States are expected to be received in December, 2007. As of now, it is the Ministry's expectation that all, or at any ratio, the bulk of the budget provision of BRGF will be released.

Regional Passport Office in Mangalore

*307. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open a Regional Passport Office in Mangalore in Karnataka;

(b) the total number of applications for issuance of passport received from South Canara region in the previous three years;

(c) the total number of applications for issuance of passport pertaining to South Canara region that are pending; and

(d) the time frame fixed to establish a Regional Passport Office in Mangalore?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (d) In view of the growing demand from different sections of the society, the Government are considering to open a Passport Office in Mangalore. However, as part of the 'Passport Seva Project', a Passport Facilitation Centre will be located in Mangalore. This centre is expected to be operational by the beginning of 2009.

(b) The total number of applications for Passports received from South Canara region during previous three years is as under:—

District	Applications for fresh passports			Applications for miscellaneous services		
	2005	2006	2007 (as on 27.11.07)	2005	2006	2007 (as on 27.11.07)
Dakshina Kannada	19091	26886	25536	1641	1955	2179
Udupi	7659	12238	11696	614	687	742
TOTAL:	26750	39124	37232	2255	2642	2921

(c) The total number of applications under process for issue of passports pertaining to South Canara region is 1639 (as on November 27, 2007).

Global warming

*308. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is preparing to put before U.N.'s convention, its strategies on climate change;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps which are being taken to control global warming?